



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Indiana@Work to aid five Northwestern Indiana companies; 451 workers impacted***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today Gov. Joe Kernan announced that five more Northwestern Indiana companies have signed up for Indiana@Work, the state's new workforce development program.

Through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Kentland's **Bon L Manufacturing**, Goodland's **Adkev, Inc.**, **Talbert Manufacturing** of Rensselaer, Laporte's **Laporte Regional Health System** and **MPI International, Inc.** in Knox were awarded a total of \$46,176 to assess the skills of 451 individuals and profile 16 different occupational categories.

"By joining the Indiana@Work program, these five companies will be able to assess their employees' skills and identify potential areas to grow their businesses," said Kernan. "A skilled worker is a productive worker, and productivity is the base of a successful business. We've created this program to fuel higher productivity and more job satisfaction, and that is good for all Hoosiers and for Indiana's economy."

**Bon L Manufacturing**, located in Newton County, will use its \$4,891 grant to offer skills assessments to 91 existing workers and profile four occupational categories. The company, which employs 250 workers, is one of North America's largest producers of soft alloy extrusions and serves a wide variety of markets, including the automotive, construction, electrical, consumer durable and sporting goods industries.

Newton County's **Adkev, Inc.**, is a 'tier 2' thermoplastic injection and insert-molding company, serving the automotive industry. Employing 120 workers, Adkev will use its \$10,648 award to provide skills assessments to 30 employees, two of which will be new hires, and profile its setup technician, quality auditor and shift leader groups.

Founded in 1938, **Talbert Manufacturing** is a leader in specialty-built semi trailers. The Jasper County-based facility will offer up to 189 skill assessments and profile five different positions with \$14,082 from Indiana@Work. Jobs to be profiled include welder, material handler and machine operator. Talbert Manufacturing expects to hire between 50 and 60 new employees this fall as it seeks to expand production.

"The new skills testing enables us to hire qualified individuals for the jobs we are trying to fill," said Stephanie Culp, director of human resources for Talbert Manufacturing. "The WorkKeys program not only helps Talbert Manufacturing, Inc., but helps the job applicant know what entry-level skills are needed to get hired and be a productive, long-term employee. It helps us find qualified employees with the skills needed to perform the work needed."

**Laporte Regional Health System**, a Clarian Health Partner, serves more than 120,000 Laporte area residents each year and employs 1,500 people. Laporte Regional Health System will

receive \$13,475 from the Indiana@Work program to assess the skills of 150 employees and profile the positions of phlebotomist, dietician, patient registration, certified nurse administrator and switchboard operator in an effort to increase its ability to recruit proficient candidates.

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Northwest Indiana@Work/ add 1

"The profiling process is terrific. We are able to benefit from this as a pre-employment testing mechanism, as well as a career advancement tool with current staff," said Connie J. Ford, PHR, vice president human resources/support services for Laporte Regional Health System. "I strongly encourage all employers to take advantage of this great product. Employers are looking for the right person that fits into a particular job. With this tool they will have a great chance for making this happen."

**MPI International, Inc.**, located in Starke County, is a leading parts manufacturer, producing parts found in braking systems, axles, automatic transmission clutches, exhaust systems, household appliances, cutting tools, loud speakers, passenger restraint systems and numerous other items. Founded in 1969, MPI International employs 295 workers and will use \$3,080 from Indiana@Work to assess the skills of 50 incumbent workers and profile its associate machine operator position as the company seeks to increase its recruitment efficiency.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys®, the centerpiece of Indiana@Work, is a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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